

in finding purchasers in favorable districts for stock belonging to farmers in the dry belt, thus preventing the necessity of cattle being either starved or sold at a sacrifice. All this is as it should be, and it is to be hoped that the different agencies will work harmoniously together so that the inevitable distress may be minimized as much as possible. The part of the Dominion Government will be to distribute orders on local merchants to those settlers who are in need of food for themselves or grain for hogs and poultry. The Dominion Government will concern itself chiefly with the needs of homesteaders and the holders of pre-emptions and will make the amount advanced a charge against the land to be repaid before patent is issued. In the same way fuel and later seed grain will be provided. While it is the duty of everyone who can do so to come to the aid of those who are in distress thru no fault of their own, a special responsibility in this case rests with the Dominion Government and its Immigration Department. Many of those who are today in dire need in the drought-smitten district were induced to leave their homes by government advertisements which promised them "160 acres and freedom," "100 per cent. profit on Canadian farms," and all that sort of thing. It is therefore only right that the Dominion Government should exert itself to relieve immediate distress, and at the same time it will occur to all students of Western conditions that the government would be fulfilling its duty much better if it would relieve the farmers permanently of the burdens and handicaps under which they labor in good seasons and in bad. No government can prevent drought, or frost, or hail, and conditions should be such that a reserve can be laid by against a crop failure. The farmer in Western Canada, however, is being plundered to such an

extent, in high interest rates, exorbitant freight charges, tariff enhanced prices for implements and supplies, and by land speculators that he counts himself fortunate if he can make a living for himself and his family in a fairly good season. Now the farmers who have lost their crops are being plunged into debt which will be a burden to them for years. Another phase of the situation is the question as to whether or not the settlers, in some portions at least of the dry belt, are wise in remaining on their land. In some sections drought has been experienced to some extent for several years past and it is questionable whether crops will ever be profitably raised there without irrigation. To a settler who has all his capital invested in buildings, breaking and other improvements it will be hard to abandon the struggle, but the suggestion has been made that the government should bear the expense of moving such settlers to a better district and giving them a new start. Whether the government would be justified in spending the public money in this way will be very seriously questioned, but the matter is worth consideration.

MARKETING THE WHEAT

Farmers will be wise this season to exercise the utmost caution in marketing their wheat. The huge American crop has been moving freely for some little time and as the German market is closed the bulk of the United States surplus will find its way to the British market. Canadian farmers have always made the mistake of rushing their wheat on the market immediately following harvest. This year a special effort should be made to hold the wheat on the farms and to feed the market slowly. We would not urge any attempt to withhold food supplies

during war time in order to enhance the price. But past experience has clearly shown that a heavy rush of wheat on the market during October and November will break prices below the cost of production. Farmers must get into a position to market their grain gradually if they are to make a reasonable return for their labors.

It has been most inspiring to see how the Liberal and Conservative parties at Ottawa have buried the party spirit and joined their forces in the time of national danger. By this act of wisdom the best brains from both sides can be devoted to the problems at hand. A legislative program of vast importance was put thru parliament in a few days, when, under ordinary circumstances, it would require at least three months. The people of Canada will be in hearty accord with the action of the two old parties this time. The reason assigned by the political leaders for their extraordinarily wise action is that in the hour of national need they must show that there is only one opinion among the people of Canada. This is as it should be, but we cannot help feeling that Canada would be a better country if the Party Spirit, which has been so happily buried, should be allowed to rest in its grave for all time to come.

We trust that our friends will not forget that we are sending The Guide to any address in Canada from now until the end of the year, for 25 cents. If each of our readers will secure just one subscriber for us on this basis we will be satisfied. How many of our readers will take the trouble to go out and secure the subscription of some neighboring farmer to the end of the year, and send us 25 cents for it?



MAY HE REST IN PEACE—AND FOREVER

News Note—As soon as war broke out both Conservative and Liberal leaders, as well as the leading party journals declared a truce in partizan hostilities.